

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2927

S E C R E T SECTION 4 OF 4 USNATO 5755

EXDIS

13. RUMSFELD SUGGESTED THAT WHILE HE DIDNOT KNOW, WE MIGHT CHOOSE NOT TO MAKE SPECIFIC LANGUAGE PROPOSALS BUT MIGHT PREFER TO WORKWITH THE SUGGESTIONS OF OTHERS.

14. SPIERENBURG (NETHERLANDS) SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HAD CONCERNS ABOUT PARAGRAPH 3 WHICH IT CONSIDERS FULLY STRESSES THE VULNERABILITY OF EUROPE WITHOUT SUFFICIENT STRESS ON THE NEED FOR COMMON DEFENSE. MOREOVER, SPIERENBURG WAS MOST SURPRISED AT FRENCH RELUCTANCE TO ACCEPT GREATER EMPHASIS ON DETENTE. HE REFERRED PARTICULARLY TO FRENCHREJECTION OF THE NETHERLANDS' LANGUAGE IN PARAGRAPH 2. SPIERENBURG SAID HE WAS RECEIVING PERSONAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS MINISTER ON ASPECTS OF THE TEXT AND WAS THEREFORE IN THE POSITION OF HAVING TO DEMONSTRATE THAT HE HAD EFFECTIVELY PRESENTED THE DUTCH CASE FOR TEXTUAL CHANGES. HE SPECIFICALLY DEFENDE THE DUTCH SUGGESTION FOR A NEW FINAL PARAGRAPH AND SUGGESTED THAT THIS WAS LANGUAGE DEAR TO THE HEART OF HIS FOREIGN MINISTER.

15. SYG LUNS AGREED WITH DE STAERCKE AND THE FRENCH PERMREP THAT THE DUTCH SUGGESTION FOR A NEW FINAL PARAGRAPH WOULD RENDER THE TENOR OF THE DECLARATION LESS PERMANENT. HE SUGGESTED THAT SPIERENBURG TELL HIS GOVERNMENT OF THE ALLIED REACTIONS TO WHAT HE TERMED WAS A "BAD IDEA". LUNS ADDED THAT IF THE MISISTERS THEMSELVES DECIDE TO REVISE THE ALLIANCE'S GOALS AND STRATEGY FROM TIME-TO-TIME, THEY MAY DO SO, BUT THE COUNCIL SHOULD NOT DECIDE FOR THEM IN ADVANCE.

16. SPIERENBURG VOLUNTEERED TO REPORT THE COUNCIL'S VIEWS TO
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HIS GOVERNMENT BUT WOULD RESERVE POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS FOR LATER.

17. SYG LUNS SUGGESTED THAT THE DECLARATION BE "PONDERED"

AGAIN ON THE BASIS OF THE LATEST FRENCH REVISION TO BE ISSUED THIS WEEK. IN RESPONSE TO CANADIAN PERMREP MENZIER' SUGGESTION ABOUT TIMING BETWEEN NOW AND THE MINISTERIAL MEETING, LUNS SAID THERE WAS "NO HOPE" FOR A CLEAR TEXT FOR THE MINISTERIAL. HE AGREED WITH OTHERS WHO HAD SUGGESTED THAT THE GENERAL DISCUSSION GO FORWARD ON THE BASIS OF A NEW FRENCH TEXT. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE REVISED FRENCH TEXT AND ANY FURTHER AMENDMENTS MIGHT BE DISCUSSED AT THE COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 3. COMMENT: MY PURPOSE IN TODAY'S DISCUSSION BEYOND STATING OUR POSITION WAS TO PREVENT ANY CRYSTALIZING OF ALLIED OPINION THAT WOULD PUT US POSITION WHERE NOTHING CAN MOVE FORWARD UNTIL THE U.S. SUBMITS ITS FINAL COMMENTS AND LANGUAGE ON PARAGRAPHS 3 AND 5. MY IMMEDIATE PURPOSE WAS TO RESPOND TO COUNCIL DEAN DE STAERCKE'S EMPHASIS ON NEED FOR A U.S. MOVE. IN A PRIVATE ASIDE AFTER THE NAC DE STAERCKE, HOWEVER, TOLD ME HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT CENTRIFUGAL FORCES THAT WOULD SURELY DEVELOP WERE THERE TO BE MUCH DELAY ON RECEIVING VIEWS ON PARAGRAPHS 3 AND 5 AND MOVING AHEAD ON BASIS OF FRENCH DRAFT AND AMENDMENTS.

RUMSFELD

SECRET

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